Principal’s Report:

As you can see from our calendar, and no doubt from the activities your student is involved in; we continue to provide a wide range of experiences. Students have the opportunity to participate in sport, cultural, leadership and community programs and events.

We have seen a significant increase in students engaging in extracurricular activities, both within and outside school. We hope for a big involvement in the Athletics Carnival on 14/3/2016.

There has been some media attention in NAPLAN this week. We are pleased in our growth in this. Our Aboriginal students have shown very pleasing growth, as have our Year 9 students. This year we have continued a range of successful teaching structures, as well as implementing AVID more broadly in the school and a team structure for year 7 and 8.

Next week, I will have an Extended Executive Meeting with the whole executive staff. This is an opportunity we take every term to work in depth on a range of educational matters. It is a valuable professional learning experience for staff.

All parents will receive more information this week related to Parent Teacher night. We value highly every opportunity to meet our student’s parents and guardians. We have found the online booking system has been very useful for our whole school community.

I will be taking some leave next week. Mr Welham will be relieving as Principal in my absence.

Yours in Public Education,
Merrilyn Rowley

Year 7 Report

This term is progressing rapidly we are now 8 weeks into the school year and as a year group you are starting to find your feet and have successfully adjusted to life at high school.
Year 7 Camp was a huge success. We had 70 students and 4 staff attend. As a year group we went to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens and had 3 days of outdoor activities including High Ropes, Canoeing, Flying Fox and Rock Climbing.

We got the opportunity to make new friends as a whole year group and I was very proud of the positive attitudes and behaviour that our students showed in representation of Northlakes High School.

Our swimming carnival was a great success. It was great to see the students cheering their peers on and earning points for their house group. Keep up the effort, well done! Immunosisations will be occurring soon all parents are urged to return the immunisation forms as soon as possible. If you wish for your child to receive their immunisations at the doctors, please send in a note so the nurses are aware.

The majority of students are to be congratulated on their transition into high school. They have settled well and are enjoying their new classes, friends and activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the effort Year 7 has made with their uniform you look fantastic in your full school uniform.

Mr Wilkinson
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report

First term is more than half-way through. Easter is fast approaching, then soon after we will be on our first holiday break. It is important that all students remember to do their very best all the way through each term by showing respect and responsibility. Many students are achieving excellent results in class assessments for which they have received Classroom Commendations. I have been pleased to award Year Advisor Commendations for those students who have 5 Classroom Commendations. This does not happen automatically. Students must bring their commendations for me to see and sign off, and then they will receive the Year Advisor award.

At the Stage 4 Assembly on Thursday I awarded Year Advisor Commendations to the following students who have displayed excellent behaviour in class and whose attendance is also very high, most students have not missed any school days this term.

Ethan Smith
Jack Kroehnert
I would encourage parents/carers to start thinking about jumpers for their student. The cold weather will arrive without warning and it is a school requirement that students wear a plain black jumper or school jumper. We have regular uniform checks during assembly when students who are not in the proper uniform must report to Head Teacher Welfare. We have the athletics carnival at school next Monday and Tuesday. This is an excellent opportunity for Year 8 students to have some fun and earn points for their house.

Students are encouraged to wear their house colours and please remember sun screen and a hat as we are out on the oval all day.

I am available at Parent Teacher interviews on March 22nd for any Year 8 parent/carer who would like to discuss their student’s progress or any issues of concern. Please go to the school website to book an interview time. I can be contacted at school by phone or by email on: fiona.davis4@det.nsw.edu.au if you have any queries in the meantime.

Mrs Davis
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Report

We are more than halfway through Term 1 and it has been wonderful to see students in Year 9 settle into their elective classes and studying what they enjoy. Our year group has had a good start to 2016. General reports from staff members about our students have been really positive.

Parents should be aware that it is around this time of the term that students will be receiving assessment tasks. They are a compulsory part of a student’s studies and are used to reinforce the content that they learn in class. Students have been issued with the Assessment Schedule Booklet for this year which maps out tasks, outcomes and the due dates. The Assessment Schedules help students to plan and organise their time in preparation for each assessment task.

Year 9 students have also been given an Expressions of Interest letter regarding our Year 9 camp in November which will be held at Adventure Land ‘Outdoor Education Experience Australia at Forster. It will be a three day, two night stay in Week 8 of Term 4, 2016. The dates are from Wednesday the 30th November to Friday the 2nd of December 2016. The cost is $253; however at this stage we need a $50 deposit to be paid at the front office by Week 10 this term (Friday 1st April, 2016) to register your child’s interest in the camp.

Our school’s athletics carnival will be held this Monday and Tuesday. I would like to
encourage all students to participate and get involved in receiving points for their house group. It is a great day that we can all spend together as a year group.

Parent-teacher evening is also approaching and I encourage all parents/caregivers to attend these interviews. Bookings are completed online via the parent portal or you can call the school to arrange a suitable meeting time. I would like to remind parents that if you do not have the chance to come to the interviews, please make contact with your child’s teachers to discuss their progress in Year 9.

Year 9 are looking great in their uniforms but I would like to remind parents that short shorts are not part of the girl’s school uniform and the boy’s uniform consists of black shorts; no other colour unless accompanied with a note from parents with an explanation.

We have had a few new enrolments and I would like to welcome these students to our school and remind parents to call me if you have any concerns or questions.

I hope we have a productive end of term.

Kerry Bissaker  
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report

Parents and caregivers are reminded that the parent teacher interviews are being held on the 22nd March from 3pm to 6pm. This is a valuable opportunity to find out how your child is progressing in Year 10. Appointments can be made online through the Parent Portal on Sentral or contact the school.

Our Athletics Carnival is being held next week; this is a compulsory day for all students. I would like to encourage all Year 10 students to participate in the day, spending to me with your peers and gaining valuable points for your house group. It is up to you to join in and participate whether you’re an athlete or a spectator.

The Science and Engineering Challenge is on again this year and it is open to all year 10 students, if you are interested in being involved in the day come and see me for more information. It is a great day where students from different schools around the area compete in engineering skills and challenges.

Also in Science, all year 10 students will complete a Compulsory Student Research Task. It is necessary to complete this project to be able to satisfy the requirements for a ROSA (replacing the School Certificate). Still in Science, late last year some of our student took part in a Science Examination that was conducted by The University of Sydney, our results are expected in the next few weeks and students will be given certificates for participation.

2016 is an important year for Year 10; it is the last year of being a junior student and a time where completing assessment tasks are very important. It is also a time when students are obtaining part time jobs working after school. This can be a challenge through managing time with assessments, extracurricular activities and work commitments. If any parents or carers are concerned about your child coping, please let me know.

On a final note I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter break.

Mrs Sue Fullwood  
Year 10 Advisor
Year 11 Report

Year 11 students have all now settled into their new senior subjects, this term has been very busy and is going by extremely fast! Some Year 11 students went out to RYDA, a driving education program held at Wyong Racecourse.

It was a fantastic day, the students represented Northlakes in a positive manner and they learned many new real world skills that will prepare them for when they gain their provisional licences.

All students should now have a teacher mentor that they would be having regular meetings with. This mentor program has been designed as a way to ensure that students have one on one help for when they feel pressured or discouraged during their senior years. If any student still does not yet have a mentor, come and see Miss Ewer in the HSIE faculty and she can help you organise one.

A reminder to all students that full school uniform needs to be worn at all times, white collared shirt, black shorts/pants and the senior girls skirt at the correct length.

Stacey Ewer
Year 11 Advisor (Relieving)

Year 12 Advisor

Busy is the name of this term for Year 12! Lots happening and your management of your time is the key to coping.

Step Up Mentoring program has started this term. Thank you to all the teachers who have volunteered their time for this successful program where teachers will mentor Year 12 students on study skills, time management, exam questions and other school issues. Please make the most of the valuable time your teachers are offering if you are part of this program. All students should be meeting with their Mentors at least once a fortnight.

Year 12 should be attending all set classes that are on their timetables. If Year 12 has any free periods, they should be in the library completing homework, assessment tasks or exam study. The library is a valuable resource for learning not socialising with your friends.

Time management is very important in the HSC year!

Just a reminder that all Year 12 students are not permitted to leave school grounds during breaks or free periods unless you have an appointment or TAFE. Appointment notes need to be taken to the office before school for an early leavers pass. During your free periods you are encouraged to use the library resources to research and complete tasks or make study notes for your exams. Mr Freebody is available for any extra support with tasks and study.

Attendance at school is to be above 85% in all classes. All days absent must be explained
with a note from your parent/carer. If a Year 12 student’s attendance falls below 85%, a letter will be sent home and students take the risk of failing subjects. Please see me if you are having problems with attending classes or school before it is too late. Just a reminder to all Year 12 students, if you are absent on the day of an assessment task, you MUST present a doctors certificate on your return to school to avoid being awarded zero for the task. This is a BOSTES requirement and is not negotiable. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if there are any concerns. Remember I am here to support Year 12 and their families in any way I can.

Ms Knight
Year 12 Advisor

Welfare Report
Term 1 has been very busy and productive with the welfare team working with students, parents and the community and in a variety of welfare programs at Northlakes High School. On Friday the 18th of March, Year 7 will be participating in National Day of Action. The program for the day is full of useful strategies and discussions regarding feeling safe at school. We will be watching presentations, having discussions, socialising with our peers and enjoying a concert. This day is sure to be fun and valuable for all involved.

Seasons for Growth program is well underway with students in this terms group working closely with our School Chaplain Felicity. This program is valuable to all students who are experiencing grief. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss this program. Please continue to explain all absences within the 7 days of the first day absent. This can be done via phone call, sms or note given to your child’s roll call teacher.

Harmony Day is on the 21st March and the welfare team have designed a great program for our students in years 7, 8 and 9! Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

The theme for Harmony Day 2016 is our diversity is our strength...

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Jodene Garside and Simone Byrnes
Head Teacher Welfare

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Letters have now been sent to all parents/carers with information regarding our upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews to be held in the hall on Tuesday 22nd March from 3.00pm – 6.00pm. If you have any problems logging on or do not have internet access please contact the school on 4390 0555.
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 21 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 18th March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Mr Boake
Deputy Principal
7th March 2016

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2016

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 10 - 12 May 2016.

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<th>TUESDAY 10 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 11 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 12 MAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 13 May** – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed and returned to the school by Friday 29th April 2016.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html).

Ms M Rowley
Principal
How to use your Opal Card correctly

Remember,

You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each Journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Contact 131500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries